

December 1995

Clinical Center News

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Patient care the top priority during furlough

The Clinical Center didn't escape unscathed during the government-wide furlough that put many federal entities on shoe-string staffing for three and a half days last month.

"About 20 percent of the CC staff was on furlough on any given day," says Thomas Reed, director, Office of Human Resources Management. "Departments managed differently depending on departmental missions." Some carried out essential work with pared staffing. Other departments rotated employees in order to maintain essential workloads.

"The partial government shutdown had no adverse impact on patient care at the Clinical Center," says Dr. David Henderson, CC deputy director for clinical care. "The reduced staffing level required some patient-care units to be consolidated and new patient admissions were kept to a minimum. In our view, the staff provided seamless service as we moved from regular operations to furlough status and back."

Nursing Department

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Retired General Colin Powell talks with CC patient Amanda Fadden during last month's holiday party hosted by the Children's Wish Foundation. (Photo for CCNews by John Crawford.)

Holiday party spotlights season of special wishes for CC patients

Five-year-old Amanda Fadden has a special wish. She wants to see her mother.

When she's not being treated on 13 West, Amanda lives in Las Vegas with her grandmother Bernita. Mom lives in Florida and frequent visits are difficult. If wishes can come true—and this is the season to believe that they do—Amanda will buy a plane ticket with an open-ended return so they can be together more.

Here for an experimental drug treatment for HIV, Amanda bounces and jumps from toy to toy. Hopping

onto Grandmother's lap, she plants a long, hard kiss on her cheek. She then sticks out her tongue, dashes off with a toy shopping cart, and flies out the door.

Today, Amanda is practicing taking capsules and she doesn't like it. But, she will give instructions on how it's done.

"Put this in your mouth," she demands, handing over a Good 'n Plenty candy. "Now swallow water." This reporter does as she's told.

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Walter Armstrong (center), NIH project manager for the Clinical Center addition, points out features on one architectural team's submission to the recent design concept competition. With him are Nancy Schulze, Outpatient Department, and Steve Moore, Information Systems Department.



Design team for new CC to be selected

Plans for the Clinical Center's new addition are expected to take a giant step forward this month when the project's design team will be selected.

Six architectural teams are participating in a two-phase concept competition that, at press time, was drawing to an end.

"NIH is using a selection process called 'Design Excellence' established by the General Services Administration to choose the architectural team. This process has been modified to respond to NIH's unique requirements," explains Walter Armstrong, NIH's project director.

A selection committee will evaluate the proposed designs based on both function and aesthetics, he adds. They'll look at each team's technical capability, work experience,

team organization, and management approach. The design teams, made up of a lead designer, health-care architect, laboratory planner, and technicians, will also be interviewed as part of the selection process.

The selection committee is made up of representatives from NIH; the project's developer, Boston Properties, Inc.; and experts from both the government and the private sector. "Scientists, clinicians, architects and engineers are among selection team members," Armstrong points out.

Boston Properties, Inc., a privately held real estate development company, was chosen in August to oversee the entire project to plan and build the new 250-bed inpatient and laboratory addition. The six competing design firms were selected in October from

an international field.

The designs, both models and drawings, submitted for evaluation do not necessarily reflect what the new Clinical Center may ultimately look like, Armstrong stresses. "This is a competition to pick a design team, not a winning design."

First on the winning designer's agenda will be canvassing Clinical Center users to find out just what features they want and need in the new facility. "The designer's initial focus will be on getting to know the people who work in and with the Clinical Center," Armstrong says. "The design team will interview users extensively in all departments at all levels."

The designs submitted were expected to go on display at the Clinical Center this month.

Clinical Center
News

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Check now for snow-day status

As the season's first snowflakes arrive, the Clinical Center administration is preparing for the first snow emergency. "We want to make sure that supervisors and staff have access to important information during an inclement weather emergency," says Walter Jones, CC deputy director for operations and management. "For example, OPM has changed their announcement procedures for snow emergencies—the term 'liberal leave policy' has been replaced with 'unscheduled leave policy.' Getting employees to work during a snow storm is essential to maintaining operations. Last year, we developed a registry of CC employees who have four-wheel-drive vehicles and who are willing to assist in bringing employees to work."

Jones suggests that each employee contact his or her supervisor to determine if they are considered an "emergency" or a "non-emergency" employee during inclement weather. Employees designated as "emergency" are required to report to work during weather emergencies.

Employees with four-wheel-drive vehicles interested in volunteering driving services during inclement weather can contact Vermelle Sandifer in the Outpatient Department. Call 496-2341 to be included on the registry of volunteer drivers. Drivers will be reimbursed for gasoline.

Classes offered

The education and training section, Office of Human Resources Management, offers these upcoming classes:

- Eudora**, Dec. 7 and 13, Room 1N248. Choose one of the three sessions offered 8:30-11:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., or 2-4 p.m. This class focuses on the capabilities of features



CC hosts holiday events

Among holiday events on tap at the Clinical Center are:

- Trim the unit trees, Dec. 5.
- Annual patient open house, Dec. 12, 2-3:30 p.m., 14th floor assembly hall. Patients and staff are welcome.
- Holidays-around-the-world party for CC pediatric patients, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., 14th floor assembly hall.
- Holiday concert featuring the Gay Men's Choir of Washington, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., 14th floor assembly hall.
- Santa's bedside visits, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.
- Holiday concert featuring the Augmented Eight singers, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., 14th floor assembly hall.
- Caroling with the recreation section staff, Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.

The recreation therapy section, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, sponsors these and other holiday events.

of Eudora, the software application designed to standardize e-mail in the CC.

- Individual Differences in the Work Place**, Jan. 18, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 6100 Executive Blvd. This is an introduction to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Discussion will focus on how participants perceive and relate to the world.

Call 496-1618 for details on these and other classes.

Auction to benefit PEF

The 23rd annual holiday auction sponsored by the Clinical Pathology Department to benefit the Patient Emergency Fund is set for Dec. 8 in the department's conference room,

2C310-312. There will be a silent auction from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The live auction begins at 1 p.m.

Holiday show a celebration

The NIH Theatre Group presents its 10th annual holiday show Dec. 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium. The show will be a musical celebration of the winter holiday season. The R&W Theatre Group is an ensemble of NIH employees and other community members who present an annual musical revue and dramatic production to benefit the Patient Emergency Fund. The group also presents on-the-road productions of its musicals. For details, call Elaine at 589-0720.

... CC patients celebrate with Children's Wish Foundation

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"That's good," Amanda declares as she takes off full steam ahead to climb on the guinea pig cage. Tomorrow, her capsules will be for real.

Amanda was among the 29 CC pediatrics patients attending a holiday party hosted Nov. 28 by The Children's Wish Foundation and coordinated by the CC Department of Rehabilitation Medicine's recreation therapy section. The kids gathered in the 14th floor assembly hall to make holiday crafts, listen to caroling by the Ford's Theater Singers, and chat and pose for pictures with famous

folks. Retired General Colin Powell was there. So was Barbara Harrison, news anchor for WRC-TV.

The Children's Wish Foundation makes wishes come true for terminally ill children. Yesterday, Amanda whispered hers to the foundation's executive director and fairy godmother, Linda Dozoretz.

"The foundation has granted thousands of wishes," Dozoretz explains. "But we're not about numbers. We just want to make each child's wish come true."

Dozoretz knows how important that is. Her own daughter, Susan, died of cancer at fourteen. Her wish

to have a driver's license never came true. Today, Susan's mother makes sure there is a way for other children to get their wishes.

"My own wish," Dozoretz adds, "is to be put out of business."

Some children came to the party in their wheel chairs, others dragged IV poles behind them, and many stood in line to shake hands and speak to General Powell.

For two hours, the kids ate cookies, glued sparkles on reindeer, and painted colorful mugs. For a little while, everybody was feeling good.

—by Laura Bradbard

... CC focused on patient care during November furlough

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members rotated on and off furlough for the week. "The nurses stayed focused on the priority of not having patient care impacted by nurses being furloughed," says Kathy Montgomery, associate CC director for nursing. "Patients were consolidated on units where possible. Staff took on extra assignments and made the best of a bad situation. It demonstrated that the team can pull together even in a political crisis. They are to be commended for keeping their spirits high and attention focused on the patients."

"Our department members rose to the occasion without complaint and we appreciate that," adds Henry Primas, Housekeeping and Fabric Care Department chief. "We were able to make it through the crisis by setting priorities, putting patient-care areas first."

During the furlough, Reed's office fielded "a fair number" of queries about how to apply for unemployment benefits although there was little solid information to give out. "Late Friday [Nov. 17], we received a briefing from Building 1 staff on this and then made the unemployment applications available through the department heads and in

a box outside the personnel office," Reed noted. "One of the things we learned in the briefing was that HHS had negotiated with the state of Maryland to extend the deadline to file."

The evening news proved a valuable, yet fallible, source of general information about the furlough, Reed points out. "NIH was in the process of setting up an 800 information number and had printed

out 5,000 unemployment application forms when the furlough ended."

Reed's office also heard from callers who were unaware that the government wasn't open for business as usual. "We fielded calls from prospective job applicants who wanted vacancy announcements mailed to them. Some hadn't heard that the government was shut down. Some callers didn't even realize we were a government establishment."

december

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**Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.**

Lipsett Amphitheater
*Clinical and Molecular
Characterization of the
Autosomal Dominant Ataxias,*
Joseph J. Higgins, M.D.,
NINDS; *Synthetic Peptide
Vaccines,* Jay A. Berzofsky,
M.D., Ph.D., NCI

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**Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.**

Lipsett Amphitheater
*Osteogenesis Imperfecta: Can
One Walk on Brittle Bones?*,
Lynn H. Gerber, M.D., CC;
*Unsound Methods of Cancer
Treatment,* Gregory A. Curt,
M.D., NCI

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**Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.**

Lipsett Amphitheater
Virtual Bronchoscopy, Ronald
M. Summers, M.D., Ph.D., CC;
*High-Dose Intravenous
Immunoglobulin: A Natural
Product for the Treatment of
Autoimmune Neuromuscular
Diseases,* Marinos C. Dalakas,
M.D., NINDS

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**Clinical Staff Conference
noon-1:30 p.m.**

Lipsett Amphitheater
*Interleukin-6: An Endocrine
Cytokine with Many Potential
Pathophysiologic Roles in
Humans,* Dimitris A.
Papanicolaou, M.D., NICHD,
moderator